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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/735,934

12/15/2003

Alex Nugent

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3732

7590 08/30/2007
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P.O. Box 4484
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EXAMINER

HIRL, JOSEPH P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2129

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,934

Applicant(s)

NUGENT, ALEX

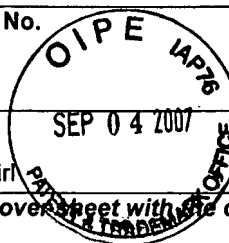
Examiner

Joseph P. Hirl

SEP 04 2007

Art Unit

2129



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered July 23, 2007 for the patent application 10/735,934 filed on December 15, 2003.
2. All prior office actions are fully incorporated into this Final Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 24-44 are pending in this application.

Request for Information

4. In accordance with CFR § 1.105, please provide detailed test data, appropriate written description of the meaning of such test data including pictures of test setup to demonstrate that the claimed invention has been reduced to practice. A reply that such information is not available will be considered that the claimed invention has not been reduced to practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 22-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Proof of a constructive reduction to practice requires sufficient disclosure under the "how to use" and "how to make" requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. *Kawai v. Metlesics*, 480 F.2d 880, 886, 178 USPQ 158, 163 (CCPA 1973). Any analysis of whether a particular claim is supported by the disclosure in an application requires a determination of whether that disclosure, when filed, contained sufficient information regarding the subject matter of the claims as to enable one skilled in the pertinent art to make and use the claimed invention. The standard for determining whether the specification meets the enablement requirement was cast in the Supreme Court decision of *Mineral Separation v. Hyde*, 242 U.S. 261, 270 (1916) which postured the question: is the experimentation needed to practice the invention undue or unreasonable? That standard is still the one to be applied. *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, even though the statute

Art Unit: 2129

does not use the term "undue experimentation," it has been interpreted to require that the claimed invention be enabled so that any person skilled in the art can make and use the invention without undue experimentation. In *re Wands*, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988). See also *United States v. Telectronics, Inc.*, 857 F.2d 778, 785, 8 USPQ2d 1217, 1223 (Fed. Cir. 1988) ("The test of enablement is whether one reasonably skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosures in the patent coupled with information known in the art without undue experimentation.").

From *In re Wands*, the factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation are considered as follows:

Examiner's Note: In responding, the Examiner will use the art provided by the applicant in response to the office action dated July 23, 2007; Hong et al., *Controllable Capture of Au Nano-Particles by Using Dielectrophoresis*, December 2004, referred to as Hong.

While such art is not prior art, it does indeed provide an insight to the level of skill existing at the time of the applicant's filing dated December 15, 2003.

The subject art by Hong was prepared by S. H. Hong, H. K. Kim, B. C. Kim, Y. S. Choi of the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Korea University; J. S. Hwang and D. Ahn of the Institute of Quantum Information Processing and Systems, University of Seoul, S. K. Kwak and D. J. Ahn of the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Korea University; and S. W. Hwang of the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Korea University and such art was published in the *Journal of the Korean Physics Society*. Such a group of individuals, referred to as University Group, cannot be considered at the level of one of ordinary skill in the art.

A. The quantity of experimentation necessary: The University Group, in the art printed one year after the filing of the applicant's application write of the difficulty in controllably capturing of Au nano-particles by using dielectrophoresis (page s665, column 2, lines 3-24). Applicant in the specification fails to identify the "how to make" electromechanical neural network that is expected to come about from a plurality of nanoconductors in a dielectric solution such that one of ordinary skill in the art can replicate the invention ... one of ordinary skill in the art is not at the level of the University Group and that University Group had difficulty achieving their result at their level of skill one year after the applicant filed the application. The quantity of experimentation by one of ordinary skill in the art is undue ...

B. The amount of direction and guidance: The rationale of item A above applies. Applicant in the Remarks, dated July 23, 2007, page 10, lines 10-13 states: "Applicant presents the following discussion to demonstrate that the nanoconnections formed in a solution and attracted to a connection gap (rather than electrodes) is based on practical principles and can function as a neural network." Anyone of the pictures shown in Fig. 2 of Hong do not resemble the proposed network of Applicant identified in Fig. 3 of the specification. Applicant's direction in the "how to make" such that one of ordinary skill in the art can replicate the invention has not been found in the specification.

C. The presence or absence of working examples: In the Office Action dated May 22, 2007, a request was made for test data and pictures of test documentation related to the invention (see ¶ 4. above) and none has been provided. Further, no statement by the applicant has been made that such material has not been provided

Art Unit: 2129

because it does not exist ... an attempt to substitute using the art of Hong was made.

Based on the action by the applicant, it can only be assumed that working examples do not exist ... no enablement.

D. The nature of the invention: The essence of the invention requires special skills on a multidisciplinary basis exhibited by the University Group ... skill not to be found in one of ordinary skill in the art.

E. The state of the prior art: The University Group sets forth such considerations on page S665, column 2, lines 3-24 at a point in time one year after applicant's filing of the application. It would be significantly beyond one of ordinary skill in the art to replicate the invention by filling in using the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create the invention represented by the specification ... the neural network could not be constructed.

F. The relative skill of those in the art: Simply stated, such skills were not at the level of the University Group one year after filing of the application.

G. The predictability or unpredictability of the art: The issue is control of an object in a solution with physical features that is of the order of nm. The University Group cites in the Hong art at page S666, column 1, lines 1-4, the systematic experimentation necessary to achieve the results noted in the Hong art. Figs. 2 and 3 of Hong cite the effects of parameter variation for Au Nano-particles. Such data represents variability in results but only addresses Au Nano-particles. The real issue is how does one assemble something like Fig. 3 of the applicant specification in a

repeatable manner ... or just once such that it represents a connection network that can be use in assembling a neural network.

H. The breath of the claims: The claims broadly cover an electromechanical neural network formed by a plurality of nanoconductors suspended in a liquid dielectric solution between two electrodes.

7. Claims 22-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The above discussion regarding enablement applies. The specification starting on page 10 – page 93 does not set forth the “how to make” electromechanical neural network formed by a plurality of nanoconductors suspended in a liquid dielectric solution between two electrodes. While control of electrical characteristics might be helpful, one has to first have the basis of the neural network which the applicant has not disclosed and not provide in the request made in the Office Action dated May 22, 2007.

Prior Art Anticipation

8. This discussion provides the basis for the 35 USC 102/103 rejection cited below.

Applicant's concept of a liquid dielectric solution comprising a mixture of a plurality of nanoconductors and a liquid dielectric solvent wherein a plurality of nanoconductors are free to move about in a dielectric solution and such solution is disposed between two electrodes is anticipated by Paul M. Adriani and Alice P. Gast in the article entitled "Electric-field-induced aggregation in dilute colloidal suspensions" published in 1990 by the Faraday Discussions of the Chemical Society. The abstract is cited as follows:

Electric-field-induced chain formation in dilute, non-aqueous suspensions of sterically stabilized, 1 μm poly (methyl methacrylate)(PMMA) lattices are investigated. Optical microscopy and digital image analysis provide the chain-length distribution. We find that the particles carry a charge sufficient to inhibit field-induced aggregation. Equilibrium predictions of chain aggregation incorporating a screened Coulombic repulsion and field-induced dipole attraction agree with experimental observations near the onset of aggregation; chain formation becomes diffusion limited above the threshold field strength.

Related to terminology, applicant has not defined the term Nanotechnology.

From the web @ www.answers.com/nanotechnology, the following definition was obtained:

Nanotechnology: the science and technology of building devices, such as electronic circuits, from single atoms and molecules.

From Nanotechnology web site created by Dr. Ralph Merkle, the statement is made that the "word nanotechnology has become very popular and is used to describe many types of research where characteristic dimensions are less than about 1,000 nanometers" (micron range). <http://www.zyvex.com/nano/>

Applicant has not defined "nanotechnology" related to a specific numeric scale. However, applicant has made the following size comparison @ specification, page 6, lines 15-18:

Microelectrical nano-size components include transistors, resistors, capacitors and other nano-integrated circuit components. MEMS devices include, for example, micro-sensors, micro-actuators, microinstruments, micro-optics, and the like.

Such definition is entirely consistent with the above cited definitions/intent.

Related to terminology, applicant refers to solvent in the generic sense in the specification, page 25, ¶ 0099, that includes a condition of suspension.

Related to terminology, applicant refers to a liquid dielectric solution without any explicit definition of dielectric. Dielectric means, to one of ordinary skill in the art, a non-conducting or insulating substance which resists passage of electric current, allowing electrostatic induction to act across it. A liquid dielectric solution will inherently have an electric conductance that is less than that when the subject solution has conducting material suspended in it such as the claimed nanoconductors.

Adriani et al. cites the following on page 20, line 1:

Particles having aligned dipoles will aggregate into chains.

Mehrotra et al. in Elements of Artificial Neural Networks cites the nature of neural networks to include a feed forward neural network in Figure 1.15 on page 20; the adaptive linear element of Figure 2.8 with weight adjustments into a summation circuit with a training algorithm identified in Figure 2.9 on page 59. Mehrotra, among others, assert neural networks with layers of nodes feeding with a plurality of connections into a plurality of nodes at the next layer

Therese C. Jordan et al. writing in 1989 in the IEEE, Entitled "Electrorheology" cites a graphic illustration of dipole arrangement in the presence of an electric field in figure 16. on page 867 which was copied from an article published in 1978 by H.A. Pohl, entitled: Dielectrophoresis: The behavior of neural matter in nonuniform fields. Such

Art Unit: 2129

arrangements follow dipole to dipole aligned to the field between the electrodes. There is no evidence of dipoles forming nodes and dipoles crossing from one chain to other chains as is required in the formation of neural networks. Further, in the cited Coulombic repulsion, such repulsion will prevent extension of dipoles. Additionally, there is no formation of chains to form weights to adjust values at a given node.

The evidence shown in the cited papers demonstrates that the concept disclosed by the applicant and cited below will not function as a neural network:

An electromechanical neural network system based on nanotechnology, comprising: an adaptive synaptic element comprising a plurality of nanoconductors suspended and free to move about in a liquid dielectric solution located within a connection gap formed between at least one pre-synaptic electrode and at least one post-synaptic electrode, wherein said liquid dielectric solution comprises a mixture of said plurality of nanoconductors and a dielectric solvent wherein said liquid dielectric solution possesses an electrical conductance that is less than an electrical conductance of said plurality of nanoconductors suspended in said liquid dielectric solution; a plurality of interconnected nanoconnections associated with said adaptive synaptic element, said plurality of interconnected nanoconnections comprising said plurality of nanoconductors in said liquid dielectric solution, said plurality of interconnected nanoconnections electrically connecting said at least one pre-synaptic electrode to said at least one post-synaptic electrode through said liquid dielectric solution and said plurality of nanoconductors disposed within said liquid dielectric solution; and a voltage mechanism for applying an electric field across said connection gap whereby said electric field induces a dipole in each nanoconductor among said plurality of nanoconductors, thereby aligning said plurality of nanoconductors within said liquid dielectric solution and strengthening or weakening each nanoconnection among said plurality of interconnected nanoconnections according to an application of said electric field across said connection gap,

Adriani et al. and Jordan et al. describe liquid state anticipated equivalents of applicant's electromechanical-based liquid state machine ... albeit without a neural network. Given that the dipoles align as described by Adriani et al. and Jordan et al. into chains (and as demonstrated by them), a neural network will not form nor will a trained neural network form ... one simply has chains of varying lengths which by Mehrotra and others is simply not a neural network. In consequence, the prior art

conclusively establishes that the invention of the applicant will simply not function as a neural network.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. Claims 24-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. See ¶ 8. above. The neural network that is claimed cannot develop and the whatever network that may develop, cannot function as a neural network because it is not a neural network ... chains are not neural networks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

12. Claims 24-44 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph because current case law (and accordingly, the MPEP) require such a rejection if a 101 rejection is given because when Applicant has not in fact disclosed the practical application for the

invention, as a matter of law there is no way Applicant could have disclosed how to practice the undisclosed practical application. This is how the MPEP puts it:

("The how to use prong of section 112 **incorporates as a matter of law** the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 that the specification disclose as a matter of fact a practical utility for the invention.... If the application fails as a matter of fact to satisfy 35 U.S.C. 101, then the application also fails as a matter of law to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to use the invention under 35 U.S.C. § 112."); In re Kirk, '376 F.2d 936, 942, 153 USPQ 48, 53 (CCPA 1967) ("Necessarily, compliance with § 112 requires a description of how to use presently useful inventions, **otherwise an applicant would anomalously be required to teach how to use a useless invention.**"). See, MPEP 21107.01 (IV), quoting In re Kirk (emphasis added).

13. Therefore, claims 24-44 are rejected on this basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/§ 103

14. Claims 24-44 fail to identify an invention (neural network) that can be evaluated under the conditions of novelty or nonobviousness. Since the approach taken using nanoconductors fails to produce a neural network, the claims as written have no basis in reality and cannot be evaluated because the invention doesn't and cannot exist. See ¶ 5. above. If the applicant is not claiming a neural network, then the chains of Adriani and the dipoles of Jordan anticipate the applicant's invention.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed on July 23, 2007 related to Claims 22-44 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

Applicant's discussion of pages 10-13 regarding Request for Information under 37 CFR §1.105 are acknowledge.

Examiner's response:

Above discussion at ¶ 5 applies. Since the disclosure is lacking in both enablement and written description, constructive reduction to practice cannot be asserted and it must be concluded that the invention as disclosed simply does not exist.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

"... As soon as a conducting nanoparticle touches an electrode there can be no electric field between the nanoparticles and the electrode because their electric potentials are equal."

Examiner's Response:

Such is not in reality the case. Since there is a small electric current flowing and the connecting mechanism has resistance, there is a voltage gradient along the line and hence the argument that the gradient is zero never happens and therefore the argument that "One can argue that the particle was in fact attracted to the electrode gap and not the electrode." is misplaced. Further, applicant's discussion of page 12 lines 1-24 concerning "chains", Hong's Fig.2(e) shows nanoparticles cluster together which can be considered as linked or chained ... in the sense that dielectrophoretic force exists across adjacent particle for the reasons cited above.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

In the Office Action dated May 22, 2007, the Examiner provided a discussion of "Prior Art Anticipation". The Examiner, however, did not indicate under which specific section of 35 U.S.C 102 (a, b, c, d, etc?) this discussion relates. The Examiner argued that Applicant's concept of a liquid dielectric solution comprising a mixture of a plurality of nanoconductors and a liquid dielectric solvent wherein a plurality of nanoconductors are free to move about in a dielectric solution and such solution is disposed between two electrodes is anticipated by Paul M. Adriani and Alice P. Gast in the article entitled "Electric-field-induced aggregation in dilute colloidal suspensions" (hereinafter referred to as Adriani) published in 1990 by the Faraday Discussions of the Chemical Society. The abstract is cited as follows; Electric-field-induced chain formation in dilute, non-aqueous suspensions of sterically

Art Unit: 2129

stabilized, 1 μm poly (methyl methacrylate) (PINNA) lattices are investigated. Optical microscopy and digital image analysis provide the chain-length distribution. We find that the particles carry a charge sufficient to inhibit field-induced aggregation. Equilibrium predictions of chain aggregation incorporating a screened Coulombic repulsion and field-induced dipole attraction agree with experimental observations near the onset of aggregation; chain formation becomes diffusion limited above the threshold field strength.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. The abstract and reference cited by the Examiner relates to the formation of "chains" in non-aqueous suspensions. Applicant is not developing electric-field induced chain formations. A "chain" implies direct connections between the colloidal particles as described in the Adriani paper. A chain is a series of things depending on each other as if linked together. Applicant's invention, on the other hand, relates to an adaptive synaptic element comprising a plurality of nanoconductors suspended and free to move about in a liquid dielectric solution located within a connection gap formed between at least one pre-synaptic electrode and at least one post-synaptic electrode. Thus, Applicant's invention does not rely on the use of a "chain" but is instead composed of nanoconductors that are suspended and free to move in the dielectric solution and not subject to a chain formation as is the case with the Adriani reference. Additionally, Adriani teaches the use of electroheological fluids, which are not dielectric solutions. Additionally, there is no teaching in Adriani of any type of a neural network or neural network components such as synapses. Also, Applicant's invention does not rely up on colloidal suspensions. In fact, the use of a colloidal suspension would be detrimental to the workings of Applicant's invention due to the fact that colloidal particles in colloidal suspensions are typically not on the nanometer scale.

Examiner's Response:

Appropriate reference to 35 USC §102/103 was made on page 8 of the Office Response dated May 22, 2007. ¶ 19. applies. For the reasons cited above concerning current flow, applicant's nano objects are linked. Dielectric merely relates to the aspect of conduction which is a characteristic of electroheological. Adriani teaches dense complex networks. Again the nanometer scale is not specifically defined by the applicant ... $X \cdot 10^{-9}$ is a nanometer scale where X could be any real number 1000 10000 ... whatever.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner further asserted that Related to terminology, Applicant has not defined the term Nanotechnology. The Examiner cites From the web @ www.answers.com/nanotechnology, the following definition: Nanotechnology: the science and technology of building devices, such as electronic circuits, from single atoms and molecules.

The Examiner referred to the Nanotechnology web site created by Dr. Ralph Merkle, the statement is

Art Unit: 2129

made that the "word nanotechnology has become very popular and is used to describe many types of research where characteristic dimensions are less than about 1,000 nanometers" (micron range). <http://www.zyvex.com/nano/>.

The Examiner argued that the Applicant has not defined "nanotechnology" related to a specific numeric scale. The Examiner cited Applicant's specification regarding size comparison @ specification, page 6, lines 15-18:

Microelectrical nano-size components include transistors, resistors, capacitors and other nano-integrated circuit components. MEMS devices include, for example, micro-sensors, micro-actuators, microinstruments, micro-optics, and the like.

The Examiner argued that the Applicant indicated that such definition is entirely consistent with the above cited definitions/intent.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. The Applicant has defined "nanotechnology" related to a specific scale. See Paragraph [0016] of Applicant's specification, which indicates the following:

The term "Nanotechnology" generally refers to nanometer-scale manufacturing processes, materials and devices, as associated with, for example, nanometer-scale lithography and nanometer-scale information storage.

Thus nanotechnology is something that must be at least on the nanometer scale. Adriani is not a nanotechnology reference as there is no teaching of "nanometer-scale" components and devices. In fact, Page 23, Paragraph 5, Lines 1-2 of Paragraph 5, of the Adriani reference specification indicates the following dimensions:

"We measure suspension conductivity...in a stainless steel Couette cell of a 13 mm cylinder with a 12 mm radius and a gap of ca. 0.5 mm"

This is not a nanometer-scale device. Instead these dimensions (millimeters) are much larger. Thus, Adriani is not a nanotechnology-based device

For these reasons (e.g., Adriani is not nanotechnology, electroheological fluids are not dielectric in nature, no teaching or hint in Adriani of neural networks, synapses, etc), Adriani does not anticipate Applicant's invention.

Examiner's Response:

¶ 19. applies. $X \cdot 10^{-9}$ is a nanometer scale where X could be any real number

1000 10000 ... whatever. Appropriate guidance in the interpretation of claims is provided by In re American Academy of Science Tech Center, 367, F.3d 1359,1369, 70 USPQ2d 1827, 1834, (Fed. Cir. 2004). Specifically, "Although claims of issued patents are interpreted in light of the specifications, prosecution history, prior art and other

Art Unit: 2129

claims, this is not the mode of claim interpretation to be applied during examination.

During examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow."

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner further stated that related to terminology, Applicant refers to a solvent in the generic sense in the specification, page 25, ¶ 0099, that includes a condition of suspension.

Related to terminology, the Examiner also asserted that the Applicant refers to a liquid dielectric solution without any explicit definition of dielectric. The Examiner argued that dielectric means, to one of ordinary skill in the art, a non-conducting or insulating substance which resists passage of electric current, allowing electrostatic induction to act across it. The Examiner argued that a liquid dielectric solution will inherently have an electric conductance that is less than that when the subject solution has conducting material suspended in it such as the claimed nanoconductors.

The Applicant cited Adriani, the following on page 20, line 1:
Particles having aligned dipoles will aggregate into chains.

The Applicant again submits that the use of dipoles aggregated into chains is not a feature of Applicant's invention and in fact would not function in the context of Applicant's invention, because Applicant's nanometer scale nanoconductors do not form chains or links as is the case with the Adriani reference. Instead, Applicant's invention provides for nanometer scale nanoconductors that are disposed and free to move about in the dielectric solution, not chained to one another, even after application of an electric field.

The Examiner further argued that Mehrotra et al. in Elements of Artificial Neural Networks cites the nature of neural networks to include a feed forward neural network in Figure 1.15 on page 20; the adaptive linear element of Figure 2.8 with weight adjustments into a summation circuit with a training algorithm identified in Figure 2.9 on page 59. The Examiner asserted that Mehrotra, among others, assert neural networks with layers of nodes feeding with a plurality of connections into a plurality of nodes at the next layer. Applicant notes that Mehrotra provides no teaching whatsoever of nanotechnology based devices. In fact Mehrotra provides only for a teaching of software-based neural network solutions, not actual physical artificial neural networks. For example, page 46, section 2.3 of Mehrotra provides for a detailed discussion of a "perceptron training algorithm". An algorithm is not "physical" but is instead a mathematical and hence software construct. One skilled in the art would not look to Mehrotra for a teaching of a nanometer-scale physical neural network device. Mehrotra is simply one of many references dealing with software-based neural network solutions. Applicant's solution overcomes the problems with software/algorithm neural networks... There is a discussion of software-based problems in Applicant's specification so there is no need to repeat that here.

The Examiner also referred to Therese C. Jordan et al. writing in 1989 in the IEEE, Entitled "Electrorheology" in order to cite a graphic illustration of dipole arrangement in the presence of an electric field in figure 16. on page 867 which was copied from an article published in 1978 by H>A> Pohl, entitled: Dielectrophoresis.~ The behavior of neural matter in nonuniform fields. The Examiner argued that arrangements follow dipole to dipole aligned to the field between the electrodes. The Examiner also argued that there is no evidence of dipoles forming nodes and dipoles crossing from one chain to other chains as is required in the formation of neural networks. (Note: Applicant does not form chains). The

Art Unit: 2129

Examiner also argued that, in the cited Coulombic repulsion, such repulsion will prevent extension of dipoles. (Note: Applicant does not use Coulombic repulsion) The Examiner further argued that there is no formation of chains to form weights to adjust values at a given node. (Note: Again, Applicant does not form chains).

Examiner's Response:

As noted above, ¶ 19. applies. $X \times 10^{-9}$ is a nanometer scale where X could be any real number 1000 10000 ... whatever. Appropriate guidance in the interpretation of claims is provided by In re American Academy of Science Tech Center, 367, F.3d 1359,1369, 70 USPQ2d 1827, 1834, (Fed. Cir. 2004). Specifically, "Although claims of issued patents are interpreted in light of the specifications, prosecution history, prior art and other claims, this is not the mode of claim interpretation to be applied during examination. During examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow." Further, additional comments related to applicability of the cited references were cited in the Office Action dated May 22,2007. Chains are formed by the process cited above.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner argued that the evidence shown in the cited papers demonstrates that the concept disclosed by the applicant and cited below will not function as a neural network. The Applicant submits that this is incorrect as the Hong reference demonstrates that nanoconnections can be formed in dielectric solutions. The connections of the Hong reference could modified for use in forming a neural network, which is a discovery first realized by the Applicant.

Examiner's Response:

Please see arguments cited in ¶ 5. above regarding Hong. Simply, applicant has not disclosed the "how to make" that is require for an allowance.

Art Unit: 2129

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner rejected claims 24-44 under 35 U.S.C. 101, arguing that the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. The Examiner argued that the neural network that is claimed cannot develop and the whatever network that may develop, cannot function as a neural network because it is not a neural network ... chains are not neural networks... The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. Applicant does not use "chains" and the Hong reference demonstrates connections that could be adapted for use in a neural network by applying Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant's invention does provide patentable utility...what is more "utilitarian" than a nanometer-scale physical neural network? Applicant's specification indicates that the physical neural network of Applicant's invention would be much faster than any present software-based neural network solutions. Regarding utility, Applicant's specification provides many examples of utility. FIGS. 14-18 of Applicant's specification, for example, describe a chip-implementation of Applicant's invention. This constitutes one example a practical application for practicing Applicant's invention, particularly in light of the features demonstrated by the Hong reference.

Examiner's Response:

Examiner has requested information related to the reduction to practice but the applicant has been silent in response. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the applicant's invention does not work ... was not reduced to practice.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner rejected Claims 24-44 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph by arguing that current case law (and accordingly, the MPEP) require such a rejection if a 101 rejection is given because when Applicant has not in fact disclosed the practical application for the invention, as a matter of law there is no way Applicant could have disclosed how to practice the undisclosed practical application.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. As indicated previously, Applicant does not use "chains" and the Hong reference demonstrates connections that could be adapted for use in a neural network by applying Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant's invention does provide patentable utility...what is more "utilitarian" than a nanometer-scale physical neural network? Applicant's specification indicates that the physical neural network of Applicant's invention would be much faster than any present software-based neural network solutions. Regarding utility, Applicant's specification provides many examples of utility. FIGS. 14-18 of Applicant's specification, for example, describe a chip- implementation of Applicant's invention. This constitutes one example a practical application for practicing Applicant's invention, particularly in light of the features demonstrated by the Hong reference.

Examiner's Response:

For the reasons stated in ¶ 11. above, the rejection of 35 USC ¶112, first paragraph, related to the 35 USC 101 rejection remains.

Art Unit: 2129

In reference to Applicant's argument:

Claims Rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 102 / § 103

The Examiner argued that claims 24-44 fail to identify an invention (neural network) that can be evaluated under the conditions of novelty or nonobviousness. The Examiner argued that the approach taken using nanoconductors fails to produce a neural network. The Examiner also asserted that the claims as written have no basis in reality and cannot be evaluated because the invention doesn't and cannot exist.~ The Examiner further argued that if the Applicant is not claiming a neural network, then the chains of Adriani and the dipoles of Jordan anticipate the applicant's invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assessment. Applicant has identified an invention that can be evaluated under the conditions of novelty or nonobviousness. The approach taken by Applicant can provide for a neural network. Applicant's specification and the Hong reference provide sufficient evidence to make this point. Applicant's invention does have a basis in reality (i.e., see Hong reference for forming connections in a gap). Additionally, as indicated previously, neither Adriani nor Jordan anticipate Applicant's invention and further, Applicant's invention does not form chains nor utilize such "chains".

Examiner's Response:

The above discussions apply. Rejection remains.

Examination Considerations

16. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention.

"Office personnel are to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d, 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

Art Unit: 2129

17. Examiner's Notes are provided with the cited references to prior art to assist the applicant to better understand the nature of the prior art, application of such prior art and, as appropriate, to further indicate other prior art that maybe applied in other office actions. Such comments are entirely consistent with the intent and spirit of compact prosecution. However, and unless otherwise stated, the Examiner's Notes are not prior art but a link to prior art that one of ordinary skill in the art would find inherently appropriate.

18. Unless otherwise annotated, Examiner's statements are to be interpreted in reference to that of one of ordinary skill in the art. Statements made in reference to the condition of the disclosure constitute, on the face of it, the basis and such would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, establishing thereby an inherent prima facie statement.

19. Examiner's Opinion: ¶¶ 16.-18. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense.

Conclusion

20. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

21. Claims 22-44 are rejected.

Correspondence Information

22. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Primary Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3685. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

As detailed in MPEP 502.03, communications via Internet e-mail are at the discretion of the applicant. Without a written authorization by applicant recorded in the applicant's file, the USPTO will not respond via e-mail to any Internet correspondence which contains information subject to the confidentiality requirement as set forth in 35 U.S.C. 122. A paper copy of such correspondence will be placed in the appropriate

patent application. The following is an example authorization which may be used by the applicant:

Notwithstanding the lack of security with Internet Communications, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter related to the instant application by e-mail. I understand that a copy of such communications related to formal submissions will be made of record in the applications file.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, David R. Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

Receptionist,
Customer Service Window,
Randolph Building,
401 Dulany Street,
Alexandria, Virginia 22313,
(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2129

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

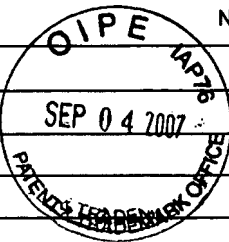
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hirl', is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph P. Hirl
Primary Examiner
August 23, 2007

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/735,934	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination NUGENT, ALEX	
	Examiner Joseph P. Hirl	Art Unit 2129	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-			
	B	US-			
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	D	US-			
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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

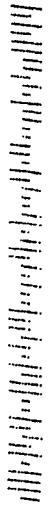
*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
*	U	S. H. Hong et al., Controllable Capture of Au Nano-Particles by using Dielectrophoresis, December 2004, Journal of the Korean Physical Society, Vol. 45, S665-S668
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
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